

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 IGA-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /068 W
----- 048987

R 071813Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4227

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

UNCLAS BONN 18324

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, GW, GB

SUBJECT: GABON ACCESS ROADS

REF: ABIDJAN 9254

1. ACCESS ROAD PROJECT OFFICER IN MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION CLARIFIED SITUATION REPORTED REFTEL IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF NOVEMBER 6. KFW QUOTE NEW REQUIREMENT UNQUOTE FOR EXPANSION AND UPDATE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY STEMS FROM EXPANSION OF ROAD PROJECT FROM FOUR TO SIX ROADS. THE ADDITION OF THE TWO EXTRA ROADS WAS, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES. WHILE THE FOUR INITIAL ROADS WERE COVERED BY THE BERGER STUDY, THERE HAS BEEN NO FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE OFFOUE AND BOUNDJI SEGMENTS. KFW REGULATIONS FOR GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS REQUIRE A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR ALL PARTS OF THE PROJECT. ACCORDING TO PROJECT OFFICER, PROCESS VERBAL OF MAY 15 INCLUDED A STIPULATION FOR FURTHER FEASIBILITY STUDIES IF ADDITIONS WERE PROPOSED IN THE ROAD NETWORK. IN ADDITION, KFW BELIEVES THAT ENTIRE PROJECT SHOULD NOW BE EVALUATED IN LIGHT OF THE ADDITION OF OFFOUE AND BOUNDJI IN ORDER TO GAUGE OVERALL PROJECT EFFICIENCY AND FEASIBILITY. PROJECT OFFICER IS CERTAIN THAT UPDATE AND EXPANSION OF BERGER STUDY WILL MEET KFW REQUIREMENTS

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IN THIS REGARD.

2. FINANCING: THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO FINANCE THE ADDITIONAL STUDIES. SINCE THE U.S. HAS PROPOSED THE ADDITION OF THE TWO ROADS, PROJECT OFFICER BELIEVES THAT THE U. S. SHOULD PROVIDE THE FINANCING. ALTERNATIVELY, GOG MIGHT BE WILLING TO FINANCE EXPANSION AND UPDATE IF COST CAN BE KEPT DOWN AS INDICATED PARA 5 REFTEL. FRG GENERALLY BELIEVES THAT FURTHER DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE KEPT AT A MINIMUM IN LIGHT OF GABON'S RELATIVELY PROSPEROUS ECONOMIC SITUATION.

3. TIMETABLE: OUR SOURCE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE FRG CAN MEET THE U. S. TIMETABLE SUGGESTED PARA THREE REFTEL. KFW CANNOT ISSUE FINAL PROJECT APPROVAL WITHOUT EXPANSION AND UPDATED FEASIBILITY STUDY. WHILE USE OF EXISTING BERGER MATERIAL AND GAUFF/SEGA/OCTRA DESIGN WORK COULD SPEED UP COMPLETION OF THE STUDY, FRG DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE READY TO SIGN PROJECT LOAN BEFORE SUMMER.

4. FOR LIBREVILLE: PLEASE REPEAT LIBREVILLE 1683.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, CONSTRUCTION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), HIGHWAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN18324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750388-0880
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751165/aaaacfxr.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ABIDJAN 9254
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GABON ACCESS ROADS
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, GB, GE
To: ABIDJAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006